

legitimate philosophical investigation. W.
Darwin after 20 years of the closest study
and research published his views. and it
is difficult to say that they instantly fixed
the attention of mankind, throughout the
civilized world. That the efforts of a single
mind, should have arrived at success
on a subject of such vast scope. and
encompassed with such difficulties. was
more than could have been reasonably
expected - and I am far from thinking that
Charles Darwin has made out his case.
But he has treated it with such power,
and ~~eloquence~~ in such a philosophical
spirit and truth-seeking spirit. and
illustrated it with such a vast amount
of original & collated observation, as fairly
to have brought the subject within the
bounds of national scientific research.
I consider this great Essay on Genetic Biology
to constitute a strong additional claim
on behalf of W^r Darwin for the Copley medal.

In forming an estimate of the value
and extent of W^r Darwin's researches, due
regard ought to be had to the circumstances
under which they ^{have been} carried out - a
prevalence of unrelenting disease - which has
lately left him not more than one or
two hours of the day, which he could call
his own.

D^r Sharpey F.R.S. { Yours sincerely
DSI & Bulwer

Dr. Lyon et Savane.

Montauban 25 Oct^r 1864.

My Dear Sharpey.

Burk and myself have made
every effort to be back in London by the 27th th
but we have been persecuted by misfortunes - through
the break down of trains diligences. &c. &c.
that we have been badly put out
over reckoning - and have lost some of
the main objects that brought us round
by the part of France - more of which were
idle or unimportant.

Burk started yesterday for Paris
from Drumgell - to make some present
at the meeting of the R. Council on Friday.
He will tell you that there were strong
reasons for my remaining behind him. But
as I defended the proposal of Mr. Darwin
for the Copley medal, in default of my
presence at the first meeting, I beg that you
will express my great regret to the President
& Council, at my not being there. and that I
am very reluctantly detained. I shall
certainly be in London (D. V.) by the second
meeting on the 3rd prox^r. Meanwhile I
solicit the favor of being heard, through you,
respecting the grounds, upon which I
seconded Mr. Darwin's nomination for the

D^r Sharpey F. R. S.

Copley medal.

Referring to the classified list - which I add up - of Mr. Darwin's Scientific labours, ranging through the wide field of 1. Geology; 2. Physical Geography; 3. Zoology; 4. Physiological Botany; 5. Genetic Biology, and to the power with which he has investigated whatever subject he has taken up. - "nullum non tetegit quod non ornabit". I am of opinion that Mr. Darwin is not only one of the most eminent naturalists of his day, but that hereafter he will be regarded as one of the Great Naturalists of all Countries and of all time:

His early work on the Shores and Distributions of Coral reefs, constitutes an era in the investigation of the subject. As a monographic labour it may be compared with Dr. Bell's Epay upon deer, as original, exhaustive, & complete, combining the clearest observations with large and important generalizations.

Among Zoologists, his monographs upon the Balanidae & Lepadidae, fossil and recent, in the Palaeontographical and Day Societies' publications, are held to

be models of their kind.

In Physiological Botany, his recent researches, upon the ^{certainty} Dimorphism of the genital organs in plants, embodied in his papers in the Linnean Journal, on Primula, Linum, & Litorea, are of the highest order of importance. They open a new mine of observation upon a field which has been barely struck upon before. The same remark applies to his researches on the structure and various adaptations of the Orchideum flower, to a definite object connected with the impregnation of the plants through the agency of insects, with foreign pollen. There has not yet been time for their due influence being felt in the advancement of the Science. But in either subject they constitute an advance per Salutem. - I need not dwell upon the value of his Geological Researches, which was for him one of the earliest awards of the "Wollaston medal" from the Geological Society. The best of judges at this point, and lastly Mr. Darwin's great Epay on the Organ of Species by Natural Selection. His Solemn & Impetuous subject had been either so lightly, or so proterously treated before - that it was hardly regarded as being within the bounds of

FALCONER, Hugh
Botanist

MD

A. L. S. TO Dr. Sharpey
dated Oct. 25th, 1864
relating to Darwin